

Mid-Monthly One-Liner Current Affairs

Financial One Liners

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of creating digital India, the leading Urban Cooperative Bank Janata Sahakari Bank Pune has recently launched the application called "**Jet Pay**" which is based on latest technology of Unified Payments Interface (UPI). It is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra
- In a bid to minimise the hardship faced by companies against whom an application for corporate insolvency resolution process has been admitted under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the Centre on 7 January, 2018 **announced a relaxation in the provisions relating to levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).**
- **IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc.** at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans **to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.**
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)** have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).
- South American country **Peru generated its highest export sales to India during January- October 2017 with shipments totalling USD 1.57 billion**, as compared to other Asian economies like China, South Korea, Japan and the UAE.
- Taxi aggregator **Ola** on January 9 announced signing of an MoU along with **ICICI Bank** to bring forth a range of integrated offers to their customers and driver-partners.
- **India's youngest state Telangana has become the first state government to take up asset monetisation through toll-operate-transfer (TOT) initiative** and has appointed transaction advisors for Hyderabad Outer Ring Road.
- **The Union Bank of India (UBI)** on January 9 launched project **Utkarsh**, aimed at providing better services to its customers.
- Gurgaon-based **Apollo Tyres** said it will be investing close **to Rs 1800 crores** to set up a new manufacturing facility in **Chittoor** district of Andhra Pradesh.
- An official delegation from South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on January 9 signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation between industries in **Gujarat and South Korea**, with a focus on automobile, defence and textiles sectors.
- Flipkart's payments arm **PhonePe** on January 9 said it has partnered mobile wallet company **FreeCharge** to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- **GVK Power & Infrastructure Ltd** has signed a concession agreement for the mega **₹16,000-crore Navi Mumbai International Airport project.**
- **The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore** on January 9 announced the launch of **Women Start-up Programme (WSP) which will be India's first customized online and classroom initiative for aspiring female entrepreneurs.**
- **The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** on January 10 2018 inked an MoU with **Allahabad Bank** for setting up an online portal for processing interest subsidy to be paid to people who availed loans under the Centre's DAY-NULM scheme.
- The Union Cabinet on January 10 2018 approved a proposal to allow **100 per cent FDI or foreign direct investment through automatic route in single brand retail.**
- The Cabinet also allowed foreign airlines to invest up to **49 per cent in national carrier Air India under the approval route.**

- Public sector lender **Bank of India (BoI)** on January 10 2018 said it has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL)** as a **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) partner for discounting invoices of MSMEs on digital platform.**
- Paytm on January 10 2018 announced that it has set up '**Paytm Money Limited**', a wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications to build Investment and Wealth Management products for its users.
- **Overall digital transactions for the first time has breached the 1-billion mark in a month, having clocked 1.06 billion in December, according to data released by RBI.** It jumped by around 6.5% against November transaction numbers, which was 998 million.
- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has launched a **Digital Rath** under its national campaign "**Cashless Bano India**" in association with MasterCard to boost digital payments among traders and consumers across the country and to motivate trading fraternity transform from cash-based business formats to technology-led digitalised transactions.
- French car maker Groupe **PSA has partnered with homegrown IT and engineering major Tata Consultancy Service** for the development and engineering of its ambitious emerging market Smart Cars plan.
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by **6.7 percent in FY 2017-18 and will pick up to 7.3 percent in 2018-19**, and to 7.5 percent a year in the medium term, a report released by the World Bank on January 10 2018 stated.
- **Cochin Shipyard (CSL)** signed a MoU on January 11, 2018 with **Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)** for management and operation of the Shiprepair Facilities at Mumbai Port trust.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on January 11, 2018 launched the **Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), a World Bank financed project.**
- **India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
- **India** has extended a fresh financial assistance of **\$45.27 million** for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in northern **Sri Lanka** into a commercial port and strengthening the country's efforts to become a regional maritime hub.
- **Bharti Airtel** on January 12, 2018 said it has tied up with e-commerce platform **Amazon** India to offer one-year subscription of Amazon Prime free of cost to its postpaid subscribers.
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has approved the proposed merger between **Idea Cellular** and **Vodafone** -- a move that brings both the companies closer to culminating the deal.
- **IDFC Bank will merge with** Warburg Pincus-backed **Capital First** in an all-share deal, and **V Vaidyanathan**, the current chairman of Capital First, **will become the MD and CEO of the merged entity, succeeding Rajiv Lall.'**
- **HDFC Ltd** on January 13, 2018 said in a filing that it would issue 64.3 million shares to **a set of marquee investors to raise at least Rs 111.04 billion.**
- **West Bengal** currently tops the list of the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2017**, comprising 36 states and Union Territories.
- India's first app for real estate brokers - '**Wajood**' – launched
- YES Bank announced Rs 7.5-cr grant for NGOs, social enterprises through the fifth edition of '**YES! I am the CHANGE**' (YIAC).
- The BSE's **India International Exchange (India INX)** on January 13, 2018 listed the IRFC's green bonds on its debt listing platform -- the global securities market. With this, the **Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC) green bonds have become the first debt security to be listed** on an exchange at International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat's GIFT city.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government proposes to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** to enable listing of small and medium industries in the stock market and get more funds for them.

- Reliance **Jio Infocomm** Ltd on 11 January 2018 announced its plans to create its own cyptocurrency, '**JioCoin**'. Mukesh Ambani's elder son **Akash Ambani** will be leading the JioCoin project.
- India has contributed **USD 50,000** to **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth** to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Hedge Equities** Ltd for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
- **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** on Sunday launched options trading in guar seed on the commodity bourse NCDEX and asserted that the new initiative will benefit farmers and ensure better prices in the coming days. **Guar seed is the first agri-commodity options.**
- **Yara International** on Friday announced the completion of its acquisition of the **Tata Chemicals' urea business for Rs 2,682 crore.**
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the **Economic Democracy Conclave organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini at Thane, Maharashtra, January 14, 2018.**
- Vedanta's oil and gas vertical **Cairn India is planning to invest Rs 370 billion to ramp up crude production at its Barmer oil fields in Rajasthan.**
- **The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index -- below China's 5th place but above other BRICS peers, Brazil, Russia and South Africa.**
- **India signed 9 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Israel** on 15 January 2018, during the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to India.
- **The Punjab government** on January 15, 2018 signed an MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up biogas and CNG plants** in the state in a bid to find sustainable solutions to straw-burning, a major environmental concern.
- **Sri Lanka and India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Colombo on January 15, 2018 for cooperation in the field of information technology and electronics, a statement from the Indian High Commission in Colombo said on January 15, 2018.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on January 15, 2018 announced that **India and USA had signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) in 2015.

Non-Financial One Liners

- **Haryana** has achieved the distinction of becoming **the first state in the country to launch High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal**. This portal not only helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their timely referral to the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.
- **The international kite festival** which attracts kite flyers from across the country and the world, began on 7 January, 2018 in **Ahmedabad**.
- The Centre recently sanctioned the construction of **14,460 individual and community bunkers at a cost of Rs 415.73 crore for people living along the LoC and IB.**
- All railway stations -- **nearly 8,500 across the country**, including those in rural and remote areas -- will be equipped with Wi-Fi facilities at **an estimated cost of Rs 700 crore (\$110 million).**

- **The RS Puram police station (B-2)** in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu won the ministry of home affairs' trophy for **the best police station in the country**, in the category of Smart police stations.
- Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar released the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** for the year 2016-17 in New Delhi on 7 January, 2018. It said the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education had gone up 25.2 per cent in 2016-17 from 24.5 per cent in 2015-16.
- In a major policy move, China frontier guarding force **ITBP will sponsor India-wide excursion tours for senior citizens living in border areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh** to build strong ties with the people, described as “strategic assets” by home minister Rajnath Singh.
- **Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the Union Government** as part of tapping the potential of the Northeastern region, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on 7 January, 2018. This would be the second such one in the country.
- The vibrant **Khelo India logo**, reflecting the freshness, agility and vitality of New India was launched at a simple ceremony by the Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here last evening. The logo also conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness.
- **Switzerland won their third Hopman Cup on 7 January, 2018** as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber 4-3(3) 4-2 in the deciding mixed doubles to secure a 2-1 victory in the final at the Perth Arena.
- Powerful-serving **Julia Goerges** stunned top seed Caroline Wozniacki with a straight-sets win in the **WTA Auckland Classic final on 7 January, 2018.**
- India's High Commissioner to Kuala Lumpur **T S Tirumurti** was appointed the **Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry.**
- **A dormant volcano in Papua New Guinea erupted for the very first time in a dramatic fashion**, spewing lava and sending an ash cloud at around two kilometres above the sea level.
- World champion **Saksham Yadav** succumbed to his injuries on 7 January, 2018 evening at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in New Delhi.
- Singer **France Gall**, whose hits — including a Eurovision triumph with Serge Gainsbourg — made her an icon of French pop music, has died aged 70.
- Lagaan actor **Shrivallabh Vyas** passed away on 7 January, 2018 morning in Jaipur.
- Legendary astronaut **John Young**, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died, NASA said on 7 January, 2018.
- Atomic scientist Prof **Baldev Raj**, 70, passed away in Pune early on 7 January, 2018 while attending a conference in Pune. Having held several key posts, Raj was serving as the direction, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, since 2014.
- Comedian and Coach actor **Jerry Van Dyke** has died at the age of 86.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a supercomputer, **Pratyush**, system at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, taking its total high-performance computing (HPC) power to as high as 6.8 Petaflop.
- In a first, **Bhopal's main railway station—Bhopal Junction—has installed an automated sanitary pad dispenser. The machine, appropriately named Happy Nari**, was set up on 1 January, 2018.
- **The 18th All India Whips' Conference** was inaugurated by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Chemicals & Fertilizers Ananth Kumar on 8 January 2018 in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The conference will conclude on 9 January 2018.
- The Indian Railways has decided to deploy “**Drone**” cameras (**UAV/NETRA**) for various railway activities especially maintenance of tracks, project monitoring and other railway infrastructure.
- Under this initiative, **West Central Railways with headquarter at Jabalpur (M.P) has become the first Zonal Railway to procure “Drone” cameras in Indian Railways.**

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 8 January, 2018 launched a **common card for rides on public buses and the metro, terming it a big step in the city's transport sector.**
- In an initiative to promote clean energy, **BSES**, one of Delhi's two electricity distribution companies (discoms), on January 8, 2018 **launched the country's first solar rooftop consumer aggregation programme for residential buildings** to provide the installations at a single point for the entire apartment complex.
- The Ministry of Defence has announced release of **Rs. 20 crore to the Coimbatore District Small Industries' Association (Codissia) for setting up a Defence Innovation Centre.** Making this announcement, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said MSME units and start-ups engaged in manufacture of components for the defence sector could use the centre for conduct of tests and trials.
- **Music composer A R Rahman became the brand ambassador of Sikkim on 8 January, 2018.**
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India, has appointed **Dilip Asbe as Managing Director and CEO of the organisation.**
- Bihar **CM Nitish Kumar** has been selected for the **1st Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Public Life.**
- **The 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards** were announced on 7 January 2018, honouring the best Motion Pictures and American Television of 2017. The award ceremony was organized at Beverly Hills, California, United States (US). This year, **'The Shape of Water'** received the most nominations of show with seven, while **'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'** and **'Big Little Lies'** both won the most awards with four each.
- Private spaceflight company SpaceX on 7 January 2018 launched the secret **Zuma Mission** for the United States government. SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched the secret Zuma spacecraft from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.
- **The 34th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival** and the third China International Ice and Snow Tourism Summit officially opened on Friday in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.
- **Wriddhiman Saha** took four catches to complete ten dismissals in the match. With it, Saha has gone past former India captain MS Dhoni's record of nine dismissals in a Test match. Dhoni achieved the feat against Australia in 2014.
- Recalling a 2016 order, the Supreme Court on January 9, January 9, 2018, **said that playing National Anthem before screening movies is not mandatory.**
- The first all-women station in India, **Matunga on Central Railway (CR)**, manned by a staff of 41 women, has entered the Limca Book of Records, an official spokesperson said on January 9.
- **India and Saudi Arabia** on 7 January 2018 signed the bilateral annual Haj 2018 agreement, giving the green signal for India's decision to revive the option of sending Haj pilgrims through sea route also.
- **Uber and AirAsia** announced their partnership to help provide a seamless, affordable and convenient door-to-door experience for travelers, through joint marketing efforts and technological integration.
- Global software major **Infosys** on January 9 said it has signed an agreement with the **US Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** which will lead to an effective tax rate lower by about 100 basis points (bps) for future periods.
- Indian all-rounder **Yusuf Pathan** was on January 9 handed a five-month retrospective suspension for failing a dope test, a sanction which will end on January 14 after the BCCI accepted his plea that the violation was inadvertent.
- Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman **Sunny Verghese** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development.**
- Brigadier **Kapil Mohan**, the man who created **Old Monk**, an iconic brand of dark rum that managed to reach the hearts (and livers) of many, passed away on January 6, 2018.
- UIDAI on January 10 2018 introduced a new concept of **'Virtual ID'** which Aadhaar-card holder can generate from its website and give for various purposes, including SIM verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID.
- The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) has established **its first food testing lab** at its **Kharagpur campus.**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 10 2018, approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Canada** for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology.

- Eminent scientist **K. Sivan**, known as the "**Rocket Man**" for his significant contribution in the development of cryogenic engines for India's space programme, was on January 10 2018 **appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- Digital payments firm, **Paytm** has appointed **Pravin Jadhav to lead its wealth management and investment business under Paytm Money**.
- **Aanchal Thakur**, a 21-year-old from Himachal Pradesh, **created history on January 10 2018 when she became the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing**. Aanchal clinched bronze at the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup in Turkey.
- This World Book Fair at New Delhi, **National Book Trust** and **Snapdeal** have come together to spread awareness around importance of education, especially aiming to inculcate a reading habit amongst the underprivileged kids through their initiative 'Har Hath Ek Kitab'.
- After scaling Mt Vinson in Antarctica, **Indian Air Force (IAF) has become the first organisation to accomplish the "Seven Summit"**, climbing the highest mountains of each of the seven continents.
- **Transport for London (TfL)** and the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways India (MoRTH)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation in urban transport policy, planning, technology transfer and institutional organisation for transport on January 10.
- In a major digital initiative to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations, the Ministry of Railways on January 11, 2018 launched **Smart the Freight Operation Optimisation and Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers**.
- **The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** has introduced a new GPS-based system **FoggPass** in all locomotives for auto warning to train drivers during the foggy season.
- West Bengal Panchayat and Rural Development and Public Health Engineering Minister Subrata Mukherjee on January 11, 2018 said the state government has **launched a water ATM project to provide bacteria-free drinking water in schools**.
- The US on January 11, 2018 issued a new travel advisory for countries including **India in level 2**, which its officials said is "**user friendly**" as it is based on ready-to-understand level of advice ranging from one to four.
- Government released first ever **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)** index 2017. While **Gujarat topped the first-of-its-kind index**, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh took the second and third positions, respectively.
- Amazon CEO **Jeff Bezos** is now the world's richest man, not just at present, but of all time.
- Warren Buffett appointed India-born **Ajit Jain as the new vice chairman of Berkshire Hathaway's insurance business** and elevated him as a director in the company's 14-member board
- **Harjinder Singh** was on 10 January 2018 appointed as the Chef De Mission of Indian Contingent participating in the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has been conferred with the honour of **Doctor of Literature (D.Litt) by the Calcutta University**.
- **India** successfully launched its **100th satellite 'Cartosat-2 Series'** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota Island on January 12, 2018.
- Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Switzerland for Davos summit, an international survey has ranked him among the top three leaders of the world. An annual survey by Gallup International has put **Prime Minister Modi at number three among the global leaders**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 12, 2018 addressed the public at five-day **National Youth Festival (NYF)** via video conferencing. The festival, being held at the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Geeta Verma**, a health worker from Sapnot village in Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh, **has figured in the World Health Organization (WHO) calendar for 2018 for ensuring 100 per cent coverage in her area of operation under the measles and rubella programme**.
- Robots will soon replace men in cleaning up sewer holes in **Kerala**, ending the age-old practice of manual scavenging in the southern state. '**Bandicoot**', the robot developed by the startup firm Genrobotics, will be used for cleaning sewer holes.

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on January 12, 2018 **decided to discontinue the last page of the passport**, containing information about parents, address, Emigration Check Required (ECR) and old passport details.
- The Election Commission of India on 11 January 2018 constituted a **14 member committee to suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act)** in view of social media expansion. The Committee will be chaired by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner **Umesh Sinha**.
- The King of Bollywood **Shah Rukh Khan** has won the **2018 Crystal Award from India**.
- The senior advocate **Indu Malhotra** has been recommended as a judge of the **Supreme Court by the collegium of Supreme Court**. Indu Malhotra would become **the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the highest court**.
- IT major Infosys's President **Rajesh Murthy**, one of the company's most highly paid executives resigned from his post.
- Wind power accounted for a record high of 43.4 per cent of the total electricity consumption in **Denmark** in 2017, according to official data released on January 12, 2018.
- **Ecuador** on January 12, 2018 announced that it has granted citizenship to **Julian Assange**, the founder of the whistleblowing website **WikiLeaks**.
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), a public sector unit functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Power, is organising a **short film-making contest** to create awareness about the electrification scheme **Saubhagya** launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last year.
- **There is no brake pedal, no accelerator pedal and even no steering wheel in the fully autonomous car recently unveiled by General Motors**. The car is the fourth generation of GM's driverless cars that are being powered by its self-driving arm, Cruise.
- China successfully launched two **BeiDou-3** satellites to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along the **Belt and Road initiative (BRI)** by the end of 2018.
- **US Launched New Spy Satellite on Secret Mission**.
- **Actor Sudhir Dalvi** was honoured with the **Janakavi P Sawlaram award** at a glittering function here.
- **Football Delhi** on January 13, 2018 signed a MoU with **ASSOCHAM** for the development of the sport in the capital city.
- **Preet Kaur Gill**, Britain's first woman Sikh MP, has been elevated to the Shadow Cabinet by the Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.
- **India** and the **UK** have signed two agreements on return of Indians, who are living in Britain as illegal migrants, and sharing criminal records and intelligence.
- Maharashtra's mine workers who face an increased risk of tuberculosis will be part of awareness programmes on the illness, as part of a partnership that **the Maharashtra Government recently formalized with Johnson & Johnson**.
- The Centre is set to organise the seventh edition of the "**Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018**" in **Karnataka** from January 14 to January 20.
- Film director, actor, and playwright **Girish Karnad** has been selected for the **Ammannur Madhava Chakyar award** instituted by the Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi.
- Horror master **Stephen King** is set to receive the **2018 PEN America Literary Service Award**.
- Having honoured acclaimed actor **Soumitra Chatterjee** with the "**Legion of Honour**" which is the highest order of merit in **France**, the French government will confer the award to the legendary actor at the 42nd Kolkata Book Fair on January 30.

- **Chittagong University** or CU will confer a **DLitt or Doctor of Letters** on former Indian president **Pranab Mukherjee**, the university's acting registrar Kamrul Huda has said.
- Hosts Assam Hockey rallied back from a 0-2 setback in the first half to beat Hockey Rajasthan 3-2 in the final of the **8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018 (B Division)**.
- The UIDAI on January 15 2018 **allowed face recognition as additional means of Aadhaar authentication** to be used in combination with existing ways such as fingerprint or iris scan.
- **The World Sweet Festival (WSF-2018)** will be held in **Telangana(Hyderabad)** from January 13 to showcase the cosmopolitan nature of Hyderabad in a sweet way.
- **The Teen Murti Chowk in central Delhi was formally renamed as Teen Murti-Haifa**, after Israeli city Haifa in a solemn ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on 14 January 2018.
- The state government of **Odisha** on 15 January 2018 announced an artists' assistance scheme called the '**Mukshyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana**' (MMKSJ) under which 50,000 artists from across the state will get a monthly assistance of Rs 1,200.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 15 January 2018 inaugurated a **two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**, which has been organised by the National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi.
- Three opposition ruled states –**West Bengal, Kerala and Odisha** — have opted out of the Centre's Transformation of Aspirational Districts scheme, thus reducing the total number of districts under the programme to 102 from 115, a senior Niti Aayog official said.
- Market regulator Sebi has approved the appointment of **Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of the country's largest agri-commodity bourse NCDEX**.

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